



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

October 28, 2005

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT
AND
TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
DRAFT DETAILED PROJECT REPORT
AND
INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
PECAN CREEK, GAINESVILLE, TEXAS

Description. Interested parties are hereby notified that the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Fort Worth District, has prepared a Draft Detailed Project Report with an Integrated Environmental Assessment (EA) and a draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) regarding the proposed implementation of the flood damage reduction project on Pecan Creek, Cooke County, Texas sponsored by the City of Gainesville.

Statutory Authority. This notice is being issued to all interested parties in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), and Engineering Regulation (ER) 200-2-2. The Detailed Project Report/Environmental Assessment was prepared under the authority of Section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948, as amended (33 USC 2201).

Background. The Pecan Creek watershed covers a drainage area of approximately 15.4 square miles at its confluence with Wheeler Creek. Land use within the watershed is predominantly rural. The drainage area of Pecan Creek within the study area is approximately 12.4 square miles. Downstream of Highway 82, the watershed narrows through Gainesville and is heavily urbanized with residential and commercial development. Within the study area, Pecan Creek has a length of about 8,000-feet. Figure 1 shows the detailed study area.

The objective of the study was to examine flood damage reduction alternatives along Pecan Creek in Gainesville, Texas, and recommend a flood damage reduction project for implementation if one could be found that is technically and economically feasible, environmentally acceptable, and supported by the City of Gainesville.

Proposed Action. The recommended plan consists of a grass-lined trapezoidal channel, beginning approximately 400-feet below Olive Street and continues downstream, ending just 360-feet below Gordon Street. The total channel modification project aspect of the project has an aggregate length of 7,860-feet, a 30-foot bottom width, and 1 vertical on 3.5 horizontal side slopes. Top width of the constructed channel would average about 100 feet. Seven bridges, Garnett, Main, Broadway, California, Scott and Belcher Streets, and a foot-bridge would be replaced. Water, gas, electric, telephone, and sewer utility lines would also be relocated. Approximately 25-acres of lands for project construction, operation, and maintenance will be acquired. The project would impact waters of the United States and therefore requires authorization under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The proposed action also requires water quality certification by the State of Texas under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

The recommended plan also includes environmental mitigation. The currently identified mitigation area is located between the U.S Highway 82 and Smith Street, and is comprised of acquiring and managing a corridor extending 150 feet from the center line of the channel on each side of Pecan Creek. The environmental mitigation area would be approximately 22.05 acres including an existing 1.35 acres of grassland and 20.70 acres of riparian forest upstream of the project. The grassland would be managed as native grassland and the riparian forest would be improved by selective tree and shrub replacement and removal of non-native invasive species, primarily shrub species of privet. Figure 2 indicates the area impacted by the proposed flood damage reduction, including the proposed environmental mitigation area.

Public Meeting. A public meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, November 17, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at Civic Center, 311 South Weaver Street, Gainesville, Texas. The public will be presented an overview of the proposed project and will be provided an opportunity to comment.

Public Review. Pursuant to the regulations implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 as amended in 1975 (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR], Parts 1500 through 1508), the U.S. Department of the Army gives notice that it has prepared the required environmental documentation for Pecan Creek Draft Detailed Project Report. This project would result in a direct impact of greater than three acres of waters of the state or 1,500 linear feet of streams (or a combination of the two is above the threshold), and as such would not fulfill Tier I criteria for the project.

Therefore, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) certification is required. Concurrent with the processing of this Department of the Army application, the TCEQ is reviewing this application under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, and Title 31, Texas Administrative Code Section 279.1-13 to determine if the work would comply with State water quality standards. By virtue of an agreement between the USACE and the TCEQ, this public notice is also issued for the purpose of advising all known interested persons that there is pending before the TCEQ a decision on water quality certification under such act.

The Draft DPR and Integrated Environmental Assessment is available for review at the following addresses:

Cooke County Public Library
200 South Weaver
Gainesville, TX

Public Services Building
104 West Hird Street
Gainesville, TX

City Hall (City Secretary)
200 South Rusk
Gainesville, Texas

Comment Period. The comment period for this action is 30 days from the date of this Public Notice. Please address any comments to Mr. Eli Kangas, CESWF-PER-PF, Post Office Box 17300, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300, or by e-mail at Eli.A.Kangas@swf02.usace.army.mil. Copies of the EA and draft FONSI may be requested in writing at the above address or by telephone at (817) 886-1924. Comments relative to the water quality certification may be submitted to TCEQ, 401 Coordinator, MSC-150, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087.

John R. Minahan
Colonel, US Army Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

Enclosures